crafts) have been implementing various schemes which include: training, marketing development, survey and studies, design and technical upgradation, setting up of crafts development centres, exhibition etc. Besides, three central level corporations namely (1) Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd (CCIC) (ii) Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation (HHEC), New Delhi and (iii) North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. Shillong. undertake various activities for the development and marketing of handicrafts in the country. For boosting exports, two export promotion councils, i.e., Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) and Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) have also been set up by the Government.

Under the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) activities have been under-taken to promote and develop Metal, Jute and Wood based handicrafts in the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To promote handicrafts in the country, following incentives are being provided to the rural artisans.

(i) In recognition of the traditional craftskill of the rural artisans, National Awards and Merit Certificate are given every year to mastercrafts persons and weavers.

(ii) The winner of National Award and merit certificates are encouragad to participate in different festival| melas organised abroad and within the country.

(iii) In order to sell their products directly to customers artisans are being encouraged by giving TA|DA etc. to participate in different exhibitions melas|festivals|craft bazars etc.

(iv) Permanent Urban Haats like "Delhi Haat" have been opened to provide opportunities to crafts people to sell their goods round the year.

(v) To live and work in a decent environment three welfare schemes viz: workshed-cum-housing, group insurance and health insurance are being operated.

(vi) Under the rural development programme Government is providing improved modern tools to rural artisans including craftspersons at highly subsidised priced.

(e) Does not arise.

Textile Exports

141. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any export target in US billion dollars has been set for the textiles sector during the year 1995-96 as compared to last two years;

(b) if so, the detail thereof, sector-wise with increase in percentage as compared to last two years; and

(c) what steps Government have recently initiated to boost exports in the textiles sector during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTITLES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Government have not fixed any target for the export of textiles sector during 1995-96 so far.

(c) In order to step up exports of textiles Government have taken a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty-free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Demand and production of cotton in Tamil Nadu

142. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of Annual Cotton Demand in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the total quantity of cotton produced in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that contractual obligation has been violated in this year by the cottton traders of Punjab and Maharashtra;

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any legal action against them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Annual Demand for cotton in Tamil Nadu is in the range of 40 to 42 lakh bales of 170 Kg. each.

(b) The total quantity of cotton produced in Tamil Nadu during the last three years was as under:

Year	Production in lakh bales of 170 Kgs each
1991-92 . . .	5.75
1992-93 . . .	5.00
1993-94 . . .	5.50

(c) to (e) Mills' Association have been saying so. However, Since contractual obligation is between the buyers and the seller, they are expected to settle it within the legal frame-work.

Textile Agreement

143. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report appearing in Indian Express dated 4th January, 1995 under the caption "Textile pact is all noise and no cheer"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the market access negotiations as part of the Uruguay Round, the USA had been asking for market access for their own textile and clothing products in the Indian market. The negotiations have been concluded successfully and India has signed an agreement with the USA. The Agrrement provides significant additional market access in the USA, which are as follows:

(i) The current specific limit on Cat 369—0, comprising other cotton made—ups, has been removed It will provide a considerable additional incentive for handloom export as this category is used predominantly for the export of handloom made-ups;

(ii) The base levels for the categories 218 (Yarn Dyed Fabrics); 219 (Duck Fabrics); 313 (Cotton Sheeting); 342|642 (Cotton & MMS Skirts); 347|348) (Trousers|Slacks & Shorts) and Group II have been increased by 5 per cent.

(iii) Additional 5 per cent quotas have been given for 100 per cent cotton garments made of handloom Fabrics in categories 334|634 (Men and boys coats) and 351|651 (Pyjamas and nightwear).

(iv) In certain categories, additional flexiblities viz. Swing, Special Swings etc. have been provided.

(v) All outstanding issues relating to the expose of 'ghagras' have been resolved.

(vi) In order to accommodate some of the concerns of the USA, India has agreed to give a phased tariff liberalisation and limited market openings schedule for certain textile items at varying rates, for periods commencing from 3 to 7 years.